Emergency will be declared, when the water level will be less than 50 thousand cusec. It has been mentioned in the document. At that time both the Governments will decide about the next course of action.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put up a question regarding the Treaty signed with our neighbouring countries regarding water distribution. The area of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is affected by the river Ganga. The total population of these three States is 22 crores, whereas the population of West Bengal is only 6 crores, which is affected by the water of Ganga. Only one crore population will be benefitted by this treaty. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister that whether it is justified to divide equally the water of Ganga for 15-15 days for each country; whereas our 22 crore population will be affected as compared to 3 crore people of Bangladesh. Whether this distribution will be justified?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : This agreement has been signed. In our view there was a drought like situation in Bangladesh in the absence of water in Bangladesh...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whether our land was not affected by the drought. Why should we give our water to other country when our people directy need it .... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit that the interest of our people has not been protected...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : My question has not been answered. I have asked a specific question.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

My question was on the proportion of water distribution to population. My question was specifically relating to the population which was affected in Bihar....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think we have been discussing it again and again.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Minister, sir, will you think for the betterment of India or Bangladesh?...*(Interruptions)*

Are you a Minister of India or Bangladesh..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : As discussed by Shri Mehta, our 22 crore population of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is affected by this agreement. Their interests have also been protected...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : How can we be assured that our interests have been protected?..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr Mehta is asking again and again about sub-section (2) of article 2.... *(Interruptions)* We will ensure the availablity of water..... *(Interruptions)* Many alternatives are being explored, like co-operation from Bhutan; to store maximum water in the reservoirs of Kosi, Brahamputra rivers and in the upper agrarion States in the monsoon session and how this stored water to be released in lean season, we are considering this point also... *(Interruptions)* upper states do not come into picture in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly help me to have the answer. I have asked a specific question..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, how much water is there in lean months in Farakka?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, how much water is available in Farakka during lean season?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : From the reports of last many years, it is assumed that at last 52 thousand cusec water remain in Farakka during lean months..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has answered the question. He has given figures. Whether you agree with him or not, it is for you to decide.

Sea Erosion in the Country

*127. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion in the country which is causing severe damages in the sea coasts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Investigation, design, construction and maintenance of coastal erosion protection works is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Government of India constituted Beach Erosion Board in the year 1966. The same has been renamed as Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) in April 1995. The objective of the Committee is to develop the most effective and economical solution to the coastal problems. The Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (River Management), Central Water Commission includes representative of all maritime States.

It has been proposed to formulate and implement a National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP) during 9th Plan,

covering all maritime States. This project and schemes of various States will also be posed for external assistance.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS : My first Supplementary is that sea erosion is causing heavy losses and damages to the life and properties of the fishermen. Natural berthing and parking places of fishing vessels are washed away by sea erosion. The fishing vessels and fishing nets are also damaged by the sea waves. The Arabian sea coast, particularly the coastal villages of the Kanyakumari district are the worst affected sea erosion-prone areas. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have identified the sea erosion-prone areas in the coastal villages of the country? May I know the steps taken by the Government to prevent sea erosion in the sea erosion affected places of the coastal villages?

The hon. Minister has stated in the answer only regarding the constitution of a committee and a board. No mention has been made regarding the prevention of sea erosion in the coastal villages.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier the Union Government was providing assistance for the prevention of sea-erosion. Afterward National Development Council had asked the Planning Commission to hand over all the fund as grant plan to State Governments and State Governments will look after this work. Since then Union Government had not interfered in this matter. A Committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of programmes to see how the sea-erosion can be prevented.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS : Some villages affected by sea erosion are protected by erection of sea erosion walls, but some villages affected by sea erosion are not at all protected by the erection of sea erosion walls. May I know the details of the assistance given by the Government of India to various States, particularly the Government of Tamil Nadu and whether the States, particularly the Government of Tamil Nadu have submitted schemes for prevention of sea erosion in the States?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the schemes submitted by the various States to prevent sea-erosion, I am to submit that we have asked all the coastal states to submit their proposals. But only three states have submitted their proposals. Kerala has submitted proposals for Rs. 346.5 crore, Karnataka for Rs. 150 crore and Gujarat for 35 crore rupees. Rest of the States have not submitted their proposals.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Beach Erosion Board was constituted in 1966 and 31 years had since passed and in 1995 its name had been changed to Advisory Committee. Whether concrete steps have been taken as per the aims of the Advisory Committee? If not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said that it is the State subject to take steps for the prevention of sea-erosion. Union Government can provide only consultancy service and technical know-how. Hence this Committee looks after these aspects only. Rest of the work is being carried out by the State Governments.

[English]

AIDS

*128. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest study by the Pune-based National AIDS Research Institute reveals a grim picture of AIDS scenario in coming years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government agree with these projections;

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps being taken to contain and curb this dreaded disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A note on the details of this study is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha as Statement -I

(c) The study does not provide any projections.

(d) The study gives the findings as point prevalence of HIV infection in a particular cohort of female sex workers and males attending the STD clinics (Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic).

(e) A note on the steps being taken to contain this dreaded disease is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha as Statement-II

Statement–I

Details of The Study being Undertaken by National AIDS Research Institute, Pune

This study is a longitudinal study in which male patients and female sex workers attending the STD clinics has been taken.

The main objective of this study is to determine the prevalence of HIV infection among the persons practising high risk behaviour in the context of acquiring HIV infection. The study also aims at determining behavioural and biological risk factors that could influence HIV transmission and identifying suitable intervention.